



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

September 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

September 28: W9JP Indianapolis Radio Club POTA activation. Noon until approx. 3:00 pm at Fort Harrison State Park.

October 11: Bryce Bookwalter, KD9YEY presenting "Backpacking and Ham Radio". 7:30 pm at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility.

Highlights from the September Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. Newly licensed Deb Elliot, KE9AXY was recognized. Recently upgraded hams James Johnson, AD9EX and Josh Auker, KE9ABT were recognized. In recapping the events of the summer, David thanked Jeff Hammer, N9NIC for organizing the club's Field Day activity, held at the Speedway Municipal Center. Jeff was recognized by the ARRL for combining an EmComm Simulated Emergency with Field Day also. David commented that the Lafayette DX Association, that he was working with, won the overall AMSAT Field Day (again). Following is a photo from the AMSAT *Journal* of the team (left to right) Dave, N9FN, David, N9KT, Steve, N9IP, and Steve, W9TN.



In July, 3 IRC members, David, N9KT, Jim, W0RLD, and Ken, KJ9B spent 2 weeks demonstrating ham radio to Boy Scouts at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. They talked to around 200 Scouts and adult leaders about amateur radio, with Jim giving them an overview of amateur radio, David demonstrating satellite radio to them, and Ken demonstrating HF radio. The club's Second Annual "Picnic and POTA" event was also held in July at Fort Harrison State Park. Thirty-five members, friends, and families attended the event. Bob Konkel, KD9TQH graciously volunteered to be "grill master" for the event. Thanks to Kevin, KD9MNB for coordinating the food for the event. Seven operators made 60 contacts on the club's POTA station, also. The same shelter is reserved for the event for July 26, 2025.

David reminded those present that elections for Indianapolis Radio Club officers will take place in November. If anyone wants to run for an office, send an email to board@indyradioclub.org Jim Rinehart, K9RU, and David are planning to put on a one-day Technician training and licensing session later. Be sure to spread the word to anyone you may know that is thinking of getting licensed.

Next, David introduced Don Kirk, WD8DSB, our own central Indiana "RFI sleuth". RFI is very prevalent on HF and especially MF (160m). Among recent sources of RFI that Don has encountered are Solar power systems, refrigerators, helium balloon blower fan, Digital MP3 Audio Amp, switch mode power supply from Christmas tree lights, AT&T data line, power line hardware, electric fence, invisible dog fence. Most important task is to locate the property the RFI is originating from. The second step is to work with the property owner to identify what on their property is generating the RFI. If you encounter

RFI at your QTH, first thing, turn off the main breaker (including UPS's), power radio with battery, is the RFI still there? Alternatively, go outside with a unidirectional antenna and compare RFI when pointed towards vs. away from the house.

Questions to answer:

- Is the RFI just on one frequency?
- Repeating at fixed intervals (e.g., every 10 khz)?
- Is it true broadband (no pattern, just raised noise floor)?
- Is there 120 hz in the AM demodulated spectrum?
- What bands?
- Is it frequency stable?
- Time of day dependent? (ie. Continuous vs. just daylight hours?)
- Is it weather related? Does it go away with rain or snow? Is it temperature sensitive?

For finding the direction from which the RFI is coming and analyzing the signal, a receiver for the suspect band(s) is needed. Don utilizes an SDRplay RSP1B, 14-bit SDR which covers 1kHz to 2GHz up to 10MHz spectrum visibility (~\$140). SDR software possibilities are HDSDR (record/playback capability), SDR# ("SDP sharp"), SDR Console, CubicSDR. Other useful tools are the TinySA Ultra – a small spectrum analyzer, 100 kHz to 5.3GHz (~\$140) and a VHF/UHF radio receiver with AM capabilities such as a portable police scanner or 2 m HT with aircraft band.

Some videos of Don tracking down RFI can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/@wd8dsb>

[Thanks to Kyle, KC9GLR for providing notes from the meeting.]

Ham Radio News:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MONUMENTAL MARATHON

The Monumental Marathon is approaching on November 9th and ham radio is once again being asked to support this race. There are 26 stations to be staffed for the 5k, half marathon, and full marathon routes. To get details and to register, go to

<https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/>

DX LAB SUITE PRESENTATION ON YOUTUBE

You may recall a presentation last season on the DX Lab Suite of applications for Amateur Radio. Earlier this month, the “DX Mentor” podcast hosted Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, the author of the Suite to talk about some of the most useful features of the Suite for the DXer. To see the presentation, directly from the source, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0q3lJS65ds>

W9JP CLUB POTA ACTIVITY NEWS

On Saturday, August 24, the Indianapolis Radio Club held another Parks on the Air activation at Fort Harrison State Park. Of the 17 folks that attended, 10 were club members, and 9 operators made 87 contacts. A couple of notable attendees were W0RLD’s granddaughter, KO4STI, and KN6SOJ, a traveling Tesla technician from California that heard about our activity from a W9ISF contact.

Our next planned club POTA activation is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, noon to 3:00 pm at Fort Harrison State Park, in front of the Visitor Center.

CENTRAL INDIANA SEVERE WEATHER SYMPOSIUM

Coming up on Saturday, October 19 is a Severe Weather Symposium presented by the Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, and Ball State University Department of Geography and Meteorology. The all-day Symposium will be held on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie and costs \$30 to attend. This is an in-person only event. For more details and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/cisws2024>

INDIANA AUXCOMM NETS

The State of Indiana AUXCOMM Team hosts HAM radio nets on VHF and HF every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. eastern (1930) on VHF and 8:00 p.m. eastern (2000) on HF. VHF nets are held on linked repeaters in the Indianapolis area: 147.210 (88.5Hz PL Tone) or 224.800 (88.5Hz PL Tone). Amateur radio operators that cannot reach the Indianapolis repeaters may check into the VHF net via Echolink (node 690934). HF nets are held on or about 7.250 +/- MHz.

For questions or clarification, please contact Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security (IDHS)
AUXCOMM Net Administrator Jeff Wonser at JWonser@gmail.com

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Greencastle IN 46135-7587
Sponsor: PCAUXCOM
Date: Sep 21 2024
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: George E. Edenfield
(765) 721-1771
Email: Gedenfield@yahoo.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Putnam Cty EOC
1600 W County Road 225 S
TECHNICAN TESTING ONLY!!!
Bring pencils & calculator
Greencastle IN 46135-7587

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Sep 24 2024
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
(765) 517-1581
Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC

Date: Sep 25 2024
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
(765) 517-1581
Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP
Date: Oct 12 2024
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James K. Rinehart
(317) 721-1458
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Oct 15 2024
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Jeffrey L. Dyer
(317) 775-3415
Email: k9dyr@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
200 N Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club
Date: Oct 19 2024
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Oct 19 2024
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Sheriff's Training Room
CALL AHEAD
18100 Cumberland Rd
Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Oct 22 2024
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
(765) 517-1581
Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Oct 23 2024
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson
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Email: k9nqw1979@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the September, 2007 *Amachewer*:

On August 13, the ARRL began sending "specific mitigation reduction numbers" to 122 repeater owners, recommending that they reduce their signal anywhere from 7 dB to 56 dB, according to ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. These reductions, requested by the US Air Force and the Department of Defense, only concern those repeaters identified by the DoD as affecting the PAVE PAWS radar system.

Henderson stressed that any order to shut down a repeater will come from the Federal Communications Commission, at the request of the DoD. "This situation only affects

those repeaters on the DoD's list in Massachusetts and California. It does not affect the everyday, casual user of 70 cm. This is not a wide-spread threat to the 70 cm band."

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Volunteers needed for Indy Half Marathon at Fort Ben: Saturday, Oct. 5. Contact Brent Walls, N9BA for more info at brent.walls@outlook.com
- Volunteers needed for Tecumseh Trail Challenge: Saturday, October 19. Contact Jeff Hammer, N9NIC for more info at n9nic@arri.org
- Volunteers needed for Indianapolis Monumental Marathon: Saturday, Nov. 9. Click [here](#) for more details and to volunteer.

2024 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

